

resolution (H. Res. 332) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1591) making energy supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 96th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

On March 24, 1915, 300 Armenian leaders were rounded up and deported and killed under the orders from the young Turk Government. And so began the genocide that lasted for 7 years, resulting in an estimated over 1.5 million Armenian deaths. To this day, unfortunately, the Turkish Government denies that this occurred.

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the House, I just returned from Darfur with a group of our colleagues 2 weeks ago. Over 450,000 people have been killed and millions displaced in Darfur; yet government officials claim there is no genocide, that the situation is overblown.

Yesterday Rwanda, today Darfur. And we can remember the Holocaust. Clearly, silence is genocide's best ally. It is time that the Congress end this silence and pass the Armenian genocide resolution. The message will be clear: the United States of America will never forget and never stand for those who support genocide.

□ 1915

PROTECT IMPORTANT TAX RELIEF

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my concern that Democrats will not extend tax relief measures critical to the American people. Residents in my State are at risk. Floridians currently have the ability to deduct their sales tax from their Federal tax returns. However, this deduction expires after 2007.

As Democrats set the agenda for the coming year, there is talk of offsetting increases in Federal spending by raising taxes for millions of Americans. Frankly, I worry that they will use this important provision to pay for additional spending.

Listen up America: Congress needs to make sure that taxpayers do not face unnecessary tax increases. I appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our constituents can keep more of their hard-earned money.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

DO NOT FORGET IMPRISONED TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the 98th day since a great injustice took place in this country. On January 17, 2007, two U.S. Border Patrol agents entered Federal prison to begin serving 11 and 12 year sentences respectively.

Agents Compean and Ramos were convicted last spring for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. These agents never should have been prosecuted, yet the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the agents and granted immunity to the drug smuggler, who claimed he was unarmed. The illegal drug smuggler received full medical care in El Paso, Texas, was permitted to return to Mexico, and is suing the Border Patrol for \$5 million for violating his civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, he is not an American citizen. He is a criminal.

The same U.S. Attorney's Office in western Texas also prosecuted another law enforcement officer, Deputy Sheriff Gilmer Hernandez, who was doing his job to protect the American people. This makes no sense. Citizens across this country and many of us in Congress want to know why does the Federal prosecutor in western Texas choose to go after law enforcement officers while protecting illegal aliens who commit crimes.

The American people have not forgotten agents Ramos and Compean, who should never have been sentenced to jail. Instead, they should be commended for trying to protect the American people. I encourage citizens across this country to continue calling the White House and asking the President to use his authority to immediately pardon these two heroes.

Many of us in Congress are concerned about the Federal prosecutor in this case and the justification for the criminal charges brought against these agents. Senate Judiciary chairman PATRICK LEAHY has already approved Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN's request for an investigation of this case; and just last week in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Gonzales responded to Senator JOHN CORNYN's call for an oversight hearing by promising to fully cooperate.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the House, under the leadership of House

Judiciary chairman JOHN CONYERS, will soon hold hearings to look into this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the House will continue to encourage the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, to look into this case, and I ask the American people to continue to call the White House and to complain about this injustice.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF DAVID HALBERSTAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this Nation lost one of its most gifted journalists and authors in a car accident in California, David Halberstam.

As a reporter for The New York Times, his coverage of the Vietnam War earned him a Pulitzer Prize and the enduring respect of his colleagues. This man embodied the spirit of a thoughtful, free, and independent press.

President Kennedy was so frustrated by the truth of his reporting on Vietnam that he once called The New York Times and demanded David be fired. The New York Times did not back down, and neither did David. He was labeled unpatriotic because the stories he wrote did not flatter the administration. But he reported what he saw, regardless of the consequences. Now we see the value of his great insight in the history of that conflict.

I have often said that without the members of the press, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings. In David's reporting at the Nashville Tennessean and later in his book on the Nashville student movement, called "The Children," he delivered the message of injustice in the South.

We trusted David. We knew that he was determined to report the truth. We trusted that he would get the story right, and we believed he would be fair. He was deeply moved and affected by the dizzy dint, the commitment and the dedication of the young people in the Nashville student movement because they were prepared to face violence with non-violence and peace.

I feel that we have lost one of the greatest minds in America, who understood the deepest ramification of violence and war. I only wish that he were here today for Members of this body to consult as we try to find answers in Iraq.

David was a sympathetic referee in the cause of civil rights and social justice. He helped convince the Nation that the price of segregation and racial discrimination was too high. He used his pad and his pen to answer the calling of his conscience. He stood up for what he believed to be right.

This Nation will always be indebted to him and people like him, who are